

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00567 291804Z

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SUBJECT: IDEOLOGICAL AND FOREIGN-AFFAIRS SECRETARIES MEETING

1. SUMMARY. THE WARSAW GATHERING OF COMMUNIST PARTY IDEOLOGICAL AND FOREIGN-AFFAIRS SECRETARIES SEEMS TO HAVE GONE GENERALLY AS EXPECTED (REFTEL). ATTENDANCE, AS FINALLY REPORTED IN THE PRESS ON JANUARY 28, COMBINED WITH RELATED PRESS COMMENTARY INDICATES THAT THE CONCLAVE IS COMPARABLE TO THE SIMILAR MEETINGS HELD IN MOSCOW IN DECEMBER 1973 AND EARLY 1974 AND IN PRAGUE IN MARCH 1975. A POSSIBLE ADDED DIMENSION IS THE FOREIGN-POLISH ELEMENT ANTI-COMMUNISM AND A HOST OF OTHER EVILS, AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF NATIONAL-LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN SOLIDARITY WITH THE MPLA. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 WARSAW 00567 291804Z

2. WE ASSUME THAT THE PARTICIPANTS' IDENTITIES AND THE MAIN POINTS OF THE COMMUNIQUE WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH FBIS AND REPORTING BY THE HOME NEWSPAPERS OF THE VARIOUS PARTIES REPRESENTED. IT IS ESPECIALLY NOTEWORTHY THAT THE SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES INCLUDED BOTH PONOMAREV AND KATUSHEV AND THAT POLITICAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBER STEFAN ANDREI REPRESENTED THE ROMANIAN PARTY. POLISH REPRESENTATION WAS AS EXPECTED. THE FORMAL DELIBERATIONS REPORTEDLY LASTED LATE INTO THE EVENING ON JANUARY 26, AND THE DELEGATES ALSO MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK THAT SAME DAY. SECOND-DAY EVENTS ARE LESS CLEAR, BUT INCLUDED VISITS TO FACTORIES AND THE LIKE, AT LEAST FOR SOME. DEPARTURES, LIKE ARRIVALS, HAVE NOT BEEN REPORTED.

3. THE BASIC SUBSTANTIVE TOPIC DISCUSSED WAS REPORTEDLY IDEOLOGICAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION IN THE JOINT EFFORT TO FURTHER DETENTE, PARTICULARLY WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CSCE. THE PARTY REPRESENTATIVES ALSO ENDORSED CONTINUED COOPERATIVE EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF BUILDING SOCIALISM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND STRENGTHENED SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA, ACCORDING TO THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE. THEY REAFFIRMED THEIR READINESS TO IMPLEMENT "ALL PRINCIPLES AND OBLIGATIONS" OF THE CSCE FINAL ACT, WHILE REITERATING THE CAVEAT ABOUT FULL ADHERENCE TO EQUALITY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

4. THE PARTICIPANTS UNDERSCORED THE NECESSITY OF FURTHER DEEPENING AND BROADENING DETENTE, SUPPRESSING THE ARMS RACE, AND STRENGTHENING PEACE AND SECURITY ON "ALL CONTINENTS". THEY REGARD IT AS IMPORTANT TO OPPOSE EFFORTS TO DISTORT THE CONTENT OF THE FOREIGN AND INTERNAL POLICIES OF THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. THEY EXPRESSED DETERMINATION TO COUNTER "REACTIONARY, IMPERIALISTIC PROPAGANDA", THE POLITICS OF POWER AND "DIKTAT", COLONIALISM AND NEOCOLONIALISM, FASCISM, AND RACISM. IN THIS CONTEXT, THEY SPECIFICALLY EXPRESSED SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA FOR FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. THE DELIBERATIONS TOOK PLACE IN A "CONSTRUCTIVE AND FRIENDLY" ATMOSPHERE.

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PAGE 03 WARSAW 00567 291804Z

5. COMMENT: CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING FROM THE COMMUNIQUE IS ANY REFERENCE TO PREPARATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE. ALSO MISSING IS THE CUSTOMARY REFERENCE TO FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE. ALTHOUGH THESE OMISSIONS SUGGEST THE POSSIBILITY OF DIFFERENCES ARISING OVER THE ECPC, PRESUMABLY INVOLVING THE ROMANIANS, WE AS YET HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY DISPUTES. THE IDEO-

LOGICAL BUILD-UP IN THE POLISH PRESS (SEPARATELY REPORTED) MAY REPRESENT ONLY A HOSTS OBLIGATIONS. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE UNUSUAL VEHEMENCE OF THE POLISH PRESS CAMPAIGN, COMBINED WITH THE ADDITION OF THE FOREIGN-POLICY ELEMENT TO THE MEETING OF IDEOLOGICAL SECRETARIES, INDICATES A CLEAR EFFORT BY MOSCOW TO STEP UP THE POST-HELSINKI PEACE-AND-SOLIDARITY OFFENSIVE ON THE EVE OF THE CPSU CONGRESS.

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